**VAS - Comics - K&U 2012**

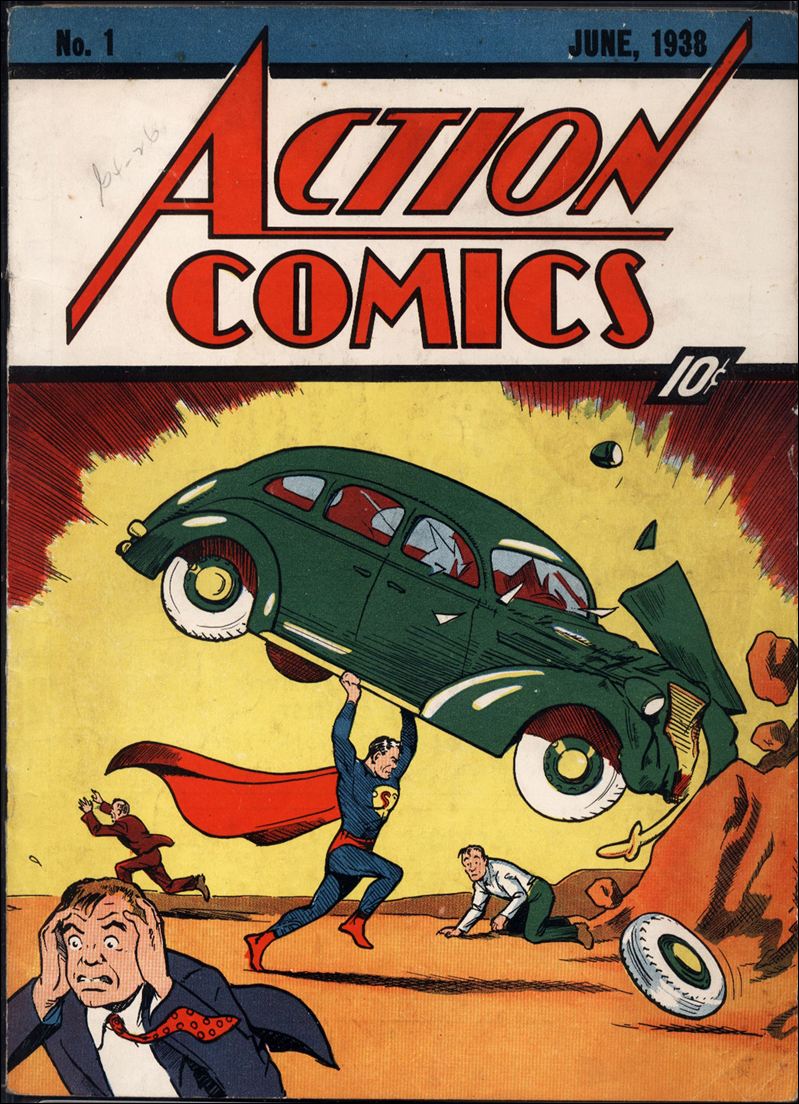
Here is the assessment rubric for this part of the project

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Response goes well beyond expectations in conveying understanding | Response shows an complete understanding of the concepts | Response shows a nearly complete understanding of the concepts | Response shows an emerging understanding of the concepts | Response shows very little understanding of the concepts | Response not present or completely misses the mark |
| Observe | **Form** – your analysis of the form shows an **understanding** of the important expressive aspects of the **visual language** | 20 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| Understand Art World | **Context** – your answer shows an insightful analysis of the context in which the art was made | 20 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| **Theme** – Your analysis of the theme shows insight into the meaning of the art | 20 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| **Synthesis** – your writing clearly shows **active thinking** on how Form, Theme and Context help decode the meaning of the art | 20 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 |

If you give yourself a 10 for any question explain why your response **goes well beyond expectations**. *Remember I expect you to answer the questions effectively – so don’t just tell me that you did what I expect!!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme question |  |
| Form question |  |
| Context question |  |
| Synthesis question |  |

**Form**



1930



1940s



1970s



2000s

Look carefully at the comics above and fill in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Composition**  How does this artist break up the space? How do they arrange the figures and the text boxes? How do they use the lettering? | **Color**  How does each artist use color? What do they emphasize using color? What "mood" does the color create? | **Technique**  How does the "style" effect your overall experience of the comic? Hoe does the artist create a sense of movement? |
| 1930s |  |  |  |
| 1940's |  |  |  |
| 1970s |  |  |  |
| 2000s |  |  |  |

**Context** - Watch the video "Comic Book Superheroes Unmasked Part 1/9" and then wrtie a response to the questions below.

**How did the Superman comics reflect the "zeitgeist" (spirit of the times) of the 1930's? Why did Superman's qualities resonate so much with the American readers of the time?**

**Theme -** Watch the video "Comic Book Superheroes Unmasked Part 5/9" and then write a response to the questions below.

**How did the theme of the comics change from the Superhero comics in the 1930s in the Marvel comic books of the 1960s and 70s? How were the Marvel superheroes different than Superman?**

**Synthesis - How Form, Theme and Context come together to create meaning**





There is a discussion going on in academic circles and the blogosphere about how women in comics are over-sexualized and objectified which implies that they have less status than make superheroes. They feel that this portrayal promotes unhealthy body images in young women. Others say that these characters portray strong and powerful women. Still others say everyone should lighten up, that comics are just for fun.

Below are two excerpts from these types of arguments. **Choose one of these positions to defend**. You should add your own two cents worth of course. Make sure you use evidence from the pictures to support your position.

*But there’s a lot of talk these days, and* [*many*](http://www.comicsalliance.com/2011/09/22/starfire-catwoman-sex-superheroine/)[*good*](http://www.comicsbulletin.com/main/columns/art-can-make-difference-responding-just-dont-read-it-defense)[*columns*](http://www.themarysue.com/guardian-sexism-in-comics/)[*written*](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2011/dec/28/women-comic-book-sexism) *about* [*women in comics*](http://www.comicsbeat.com/2011/06/27/sexism-is-over/)*, feminism, and in particular the sexism of comics by way of the* [*objectification*](http://dcwomenkickingass.tumblr.com/post/6247600487/notthepants) *and hyper-sexualization of female characters* [*and related issues*](http://www.comicsalliance.com/2012/01/19/superhero-beefcake-sexy-comics)*. Most people who read this column regularly know how I feel about these issues.  The short version is that I think it’s a big problem that extends far beyond comics and like other media, it really affects the way people view women, and how women, especially young women, view themselves.  I don’t think “it’s just comics” and it doesn’t matter.  I think media is a powerful thing in our society and that there’s a trickle down effect in seeing these portrayals reinforced over and over again. These portrayals shape how we view and value women and contributes to everything from sexism in the work place to eating disorders. I don’t think comics are the only media to blame, but it does happen to be the medium I write about, so here we are.*

- Kelly Thompson' "She Has No Head" http://goodcomics.comicbookresources.com/2012/02/21/she-has-no-head-no-its-not-equal/

*I feel the whole practice of reading some of these comics is akin to whacking yourself in the hand with a hammer and then screaming that it hurts. There is most definitely a sexist element to how certain female superheroes are portrayed in comics, but it's not a secret. You don't look at a character like Power Girl and wonder, "Hmmm, could it be that tawdry costume she's in has a purpose other than drawing attention to her ridiculously enormous tits?" (And in case you do, here's a hint: No.) By and large, the types of comics creating all this uproar practically celebrate what they're doing. Meaning, it's not at all difficult to ignore them. And if you're offended by the portrayal of women in these comics, that's the best recourse: Ignore them. Starve them out. Stop supporting them.*

- Eric Stephenson, http://it-sparkles.blogspot.com

write your argument here